DDA flats for EPF subscribers

*231. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has offered to purchase 10,000 flats lying vacant with DDA for want of buyers to allot them to the Employees Provident fund (EPF) subscribers under "Shramik Aawas Yojana";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these flats had no takers due to lack of amenities; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such information has come to the notice of the Ministry of Labour.

(d) Does not arise.

Import duty on palm oil

†*232. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that import of the palm oil, which is mainly used by the poor, is duty free even in the less developed country like Nepal, while in India it is out of reach of the poor people due to the imposition of import duty @ 65 per cent; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider reduction in import duty on palm oil from 65 per cent to 25 per cent, so that the poor people buy it easily?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In order to harmonise

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi

the interests of farmers, processors and consumers, the import duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time. No change is presently envisaged in the rate of duty on palm oil.

Telephone facilities in villages of U.P.

*233. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Uttar Pradesh which have not been provided with telephone facilities as yet; and

(b) by when this is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) There are 103396 revenue villages in the State of U.P. Out of these, 97170 villages have already been provided with telecom facility by BSNL as on 31.01.2003. Out of 6226 uncovered villages, 6021 are uninhabited villages. In the remaining 205 villages, the custodians could not be finalised due to factors like court cases, factional rivalries within the village, other local disputes etc. The Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in these 205 villages shall be provided as and when the disputes get settled.

Maintenance of NH-57

†*234. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether road from Darbhanga to Jhanjharpur, particularly from Sakri to Jhanjharpur on National Highway-57 is in a dilapidated condition and not suitable for transport;

(b) whether any funds have been allocated for repair and strengthening of the road;

(c) if so, the details of the amount allocated/spent, so far; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi